

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 09781 041405Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /064 W
-----041452Z 051906 /53

R 041406Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1370
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS PARIS 09781

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FR, US
SUBJECT: HERALD TRIBUNE ARTICLE "GISCARD ANGERED BY
US CONTACTS WITH REDS"

SUMMARY. ARTICLE BY JAMES GOLDSBOROUGH APPEARED ON
FRONT PAGE APRIL 4 HERALD TRIBUNE REPORTING ON GISCARD-
VANCE MEETING OF APRIL 2. HIGHLIGHTS OF ARTICLE ARE
TRANSMITTED FOR DEPARTMENT INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PARIS, APRIL 3: QUOTE THE US STATE DEPARTMENT'S
FIRST TENTATIVE CONTACTS WITH LEADERS OF THE FRENCH
COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY PRESI-
DENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING.

2. MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING EXPRESSED HIS DEEP "IRRITATION"
TO SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE YESTERDAY OVER RECENT
CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US EMBASSY AND COMMUNIST LEADER
JEAN KANAPA, WHO IS THE PARTY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIA-
LIST.

3. MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING IS SAID TO HAVE POINTED OUT
THAT SUCH CONTACTS CAN ONLY HELP THE COMMUNISTS IN THE
COMING FRENCH ELECTORAL PERIOD. HE POINTED OUT THAT,
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DURING THE RECENT US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, HE REFUSED
TO SEE LEADERS OF THE US OPPOSITION.

4. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION NAMES, IT IS KNOWN THAT
BOTH GEORGE WALLACE AND HUBERT HUMPHREY, CANDIDATES FOR
THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION AT THE TIME, ASKED TO SEE THE
FRENCH PRESIDENT AND WERE TURNED DOWN.

5. MR. VANCE WAS SAID TO HAVE LISTENED TO MR. GIS-CARD D'ESTAING'S REMARKS WITH SYMPATHY, WHILE REMAINING NONCOMMITTAL. IT IS BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WILL PROMPT THE US GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A POLICY IN AN AREA WHERE IT HAS HAD NONE, WHICH HAS LEFT US DIPLOMATS ABROAD BOTH DIVIDED AND CONFUSED.

6. TO SOME DEGREE, THE PROBLEM IS SIMILAR IN PARIS, ROME AND MADRID, THE CAPITALS OF EUROCOMMUNISM. IN EACH OF THESE CITIES, CONTACTS BETWEEN US DIPLOMATS AND LOCAL COMMUNISTS HAVE INCREASED UNDER THE GENERALLY MORE LIBERAL APPROACH OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED NO OFFICIAL POLICY, LEAVING EACH EMBASSY MORE OR LESS TO IMPROVISE.

7.....THERE ARE APPARENTLY MANY AMERICANS IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WHO BELIEVE THAT CONTACT MUST BE MAINTAINED WITH THE COMMUNISTS, EVEN IF THE OPPOSITION HERE STILL IS UNSOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO REFUSE CONTACTS WITH ITS OWN GOVERNMENT. THIS VIEW HOLDS THAT IF MR. GIS-CARD D'ESTAING'S POSITION IS SO WEAK THAT HE IS DAMAGED BY THIS KIND OF CONTACT, THEN THERE IS PROBABLY LITTLE HOPE FOR HIM ANYWAY.

8. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY CLEAR STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY, IT IS THE AMBASSADOR WHO DECIDES, AS MR. GARDNER HAS IN ROME, WHAT CONTACTS ARE TO BE MAINTAINED. THE ISSUE
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COULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED IN PARIS TOO BY THE NEW AMBASSADOR BUT MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING'S PROTEST TO MR. VANCE NOW MAKES IT A GOVERNMENT AFFAIR. UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST OFFICIALS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770491/aaaadbfi.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f3201ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2907434
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HERALD TRIBUNE ARTICLE "GISCARD ANGERED BY US CONTACTS WITH REDS" SUMMARY. ARTICLE BY JAMES GOLDSBOROUGH APPEARED O
TAGS: PFOR, FR, US, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY), (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbci://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f3201ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009